

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. MILLWALL.

Though Luton were defeated by Millwall on Saturday to the tune of two goals to nil, I was not at all surprised. It is a fact that Luton and Millwall always play a fine game, and we have had some close fights. When we visited London last season we just managed to beat the Dockers by one goal—3-2, but Millwall made up for their reverse by drawing with us at Luton—1 goal each. And whatever the critics may say, we have not such a good team this season as we had last.

There was another alteration in the Luton team, as will be seen from the following:—

Luton—Lindsay; Turner and McEwen; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Lamberton, Eaton, Spencer, Ross and Barnes.

Millwall—Joyce; McLaren and Stevenson; Proudfoot, McLean, and Blythe; Bradbury, Calvey, J. H. Gettins, Watkins and Hunter.

Spencer has been an amateur for Bury, and played at centre forward for Luton on Saturday, but as he was hurt half way through the first half, perhaps he must not be thoroughly criticised for his moderate display. Luton started with great dash, and for the first few minutes were pressing hotly. Joyce saved a long drive from Turner, and Eaton headed wide, and just afterwards missed an easy chance from close in.

Early in the game Lindsay was beaten by a magnificent shot from Calvey. At the other end, Luton were making it warm for the Millwall defence. Joyce had difficulty in saving from Ross, and Barnes afterwards missed an open goal. Eventually Ross got through, but the whistle blew for a foul against Spencer, who jumped dangerously, and the point was accordingly disallowed.

Again when Luton had a chance of equalising the leather went wide. There was no doubt that hard luck was dogging the footsteps of the men from Strawopolis. The next point of interest was Joyce's clever save from Freddy White, and he again had to fist out from Eaton and Barnes at close quarters. Nothing further was scored during the first moiety, and the teams changed ends with Millwall leading by a single goal.

Re-starting, Luton were the first to attack, but the forwards did not shoot until they were within close range. Without having gained any advantage they were driven back, and for a time play went on in Luton's territory. Lindsay was now doing better, and succeeded in staving off disaster. A penalty was given against Eaton for "hands," and from the kick Millwall scored through Watkins.

After this reverse, Luton were not able to get on, try hard as they would ; but it should be mentioned that the homesters were playing a very sound defence indeed. Towards the end Luton's defence also improved, with the result that neither side could score again. Thus a well-contested match ended in favour of Millwall by 2-0.

Notwithstanding their defeat, Luton showed improvement on Saturday. The half line however, is still unsatisfactory, and we are not strong in attack, though it remains to be seen what Spencer is capable of doing. Critics are somewhat pessimistic on the point, but our new capture will get a good trial.

Speaking of the match, a London contemporary says:—"Time was when the meeting of Luton and Millwall would almost have drawn all London, and although, generally speaking, the size of football gates has very much increased, somehow there is not the same interest in the doings of these pioneers of Southern football. With all due deference to the managers of the Arsenal team and the fine fight they have waged for themselves, they have done little or nothing for Southern football, and it is the Southern League which has created the widespread interest in the Association game in London and the Southern provinces. No clubs more than Millwall and Luton have worked towards this end, and enthusiasts of the game, and those who wish for its development, should always keep a warm corner in their hearts for those gallant clubs who are ever struggling to keep their heads above water."